

**EVACUEE****NEWSLETTER**

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Naval Air Station Meridian

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**Katrina Ravages Gulf Coast; Four States Still Feeling Affects**

Hurricane Katrina left a path of devastation all along the Gulf Coast after coming ashore, Monday. The death toll is estimated to be at least 120, but expected to be much higher.

**Louisiana**

Rescuers are still trying to cope with the destruction all along the coast, but officials are facing enormous challenges in New Orleans, where floodwaters continue to rise. In addition to a breach in the levee, the pumping stations are overwhelmed. About 80 percent of the city was flooded with up to 20 feet of water after two levees collapsed.

Officials in Houston, Texas, said plans are in the works to take at least 25,000 refugees -- mostly from the Superdome -- and shelter them in the Astrodome.

New Orleans is practically cut off. Bridges leading into the city were destroyed and sections of Interstate 10 were destroyed.

At least 870,000 customers are without power.

**Mississippi**

Hundreds of waterfront homes, businesses, community landmarks and condominiums were obliterated.

Casinos built on barges along the coast were damaged or destroyed, with some floating across the beach onto land.

The death toll is estimated to be at least 110.

Major bridges in three coastal counties, including those linking Biloxi with Ocean Springs and the connection to Bay St. Louis were damaged.

Nearly 1 million customers are without power.

Governor Haley Barbour said Hurricane Katrina has inflicted more damage to Mississippi beach towns than did Hurricane Camille in 1969.

**Alabama**

Flooding reached 11 feet in Mobile, matching a record set in

1917. Water is up to the roofs of cars in downtown Mobile and bayou communities.

The piers were ransacked and grand homes were flooded along the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

There are about 405,000 customers without power.

Major bridge over the Mobile River is partially reopened. It was struck by oil drilling platform that floated away from a shipyard.

**Florida**

In South Florida, there are 70,000 customers still without power, and in the panhandle there is an additional 38,000.

**Gas Shortages**

The White House will tap the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help ease concerns about the disaster's effect on the nation's fuel supplies.

One of two pipeline companies supplying gasoline to the eastern seaboard of the U.S. said it hopes to be back in partial operation soon. The other pipeline is waiting for electricity to be restored.

**When Can I Go Home?**

Disaster response officials are urging evacuated residents not to return for least a week to areas that have been hit hard in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

You are asked to please not contact local fire and police agencies, which are busy responding to emergencies. Instead, check the following:

**Alabama Emergency Management Agency, 205-280-2200**

**Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 225-925-7400**

**Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, 601-352-9100 or 800-222-6362**

**Florida Division of Emergency Management, 800-342-3557**

**Federal Disaster Aid available for those suffering losses in designated areas****Designated Areas**

**Alabama:** Baldwin, Clarke, Choctaw, Mobile, Sumter and Washington Counties

**Louisiana:** Acasia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Palquemes, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, t. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne,

Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes

**Mississippi:** Covington, Forrest, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River and Stone Counties

**How to Apply**

Call FEMA to apply for assistance at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 for the hearing impaired.

These numbers are for people in the designated federal disaster areas only.

Be prepared to give your Social

Security number, describe your losses, provide financial information, and give directions to the damaged property.

If you get a busy signal, try to call after 6 p.m. or on the weekends.

The information provided gets you in the system. An inspector will schedule an appointment and visit the property. You should be there. A housing assistance check will arrive in 7-10 days, if you are eligible. There may be an SBA application enclosed. You MUST fill out and return to be eligible for any further assistance.

**Navy 24-hour help line for family info 1-877-414-5358**